

Consideration of the dedication of the Miller Ridge Nature Preserve, Brown County

The proposed Nature Preserve is a 30.6-acre property located 5 miles southwest of Nashville in Yellowwood State Forest, Brown County. The Nature Preserve generally lies between Miller Ridge to the south and Taylor Ridge to the North. Further, this Nature Preserve's north and east boundaries share a common border with Brown County State Park.

This Nature Preserve contains high-quality examples of mesic, dry-mesic, and dry-upland forest communities.

The state-endangered, yellowwood tree (*Cladrastis kentukea*) is the most notable species in this Nature Preserve. Yellowwoods are known only to a few isolated populations in the state of Indiana all located in Brown County.

At least five state-listed species utilize the Miller Ridge Nature Preserve: timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*), worm-eating warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorous*), large whorled pogonia (*Isotria verticillata*), American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*), and of course the yellowwood tree (*Cladrastis kentukea*).

Together with the existing Crooked Creek Nature Preserve, the proposed Miller Ridge Nature Preserve supports the highest-quality yellowwood populations in Yellowwood State Forest.

The tract is owned and managed by the Department of Natural Resources and under the administration of the Division of Forestry.

The Division of Nature Preserves and the Division of Forestry recommend dedication of this site as a State Nature Preserve.

Attached is Nature Preserves exhibits A.

Nature Preserves Exhibit A
Miller Ridge Nature Preserve

County: Brown

USGS: Belmont 7.5 Quad

Size: 30.6 Acres

Ownership: Indiana Division of Forestry

